



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

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PRESS RELEASE

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LAUNCH OF THE VIRTUAL SELF-HELP LAW CENTER ANNOUNCED

The Monterey County Superior Court is pleased to announce the launch of the Virtual Self-Help Law Center (SHLC) on the Court's public website, which is available in both English and Spanish. The website is a user friendly tool aimed at effectively guiding self-represented litigants through the legal process in Family Law, Domestic Violence, Eviction, Small Claims and Traffic Court cases. The SHLC uses short educational videos, fillable forms, instructions, and links to other resources to assist users in navigating the legal system on their own.

Presiding Judge Marla O. Anderson states, "The legal information available on the Self-Help Law Center will assist self-represented litigants become better informed and prepared for their court hearing. It is important to our justice system that every individual has an opportunity to tell his or her story in court in an effective manner."

Court Executive Officer Teresa A. Risi added, "Our goal as a Court is to continue to enhance access to the justice system for all community members. Representing yourself in a court hearing of any kind can be an intimidating process, particularly when you're not certain what to expect or what steps are necessary to have your day in Court. I'm delighted that self-represented litigants will now have access to the educational tools and guidance provided by the Self-Help Law Center."

The website was developed and is maintained by the Superior Court of Contra Costa. Retired Contra Costa Court Executive Officer Ken Torre was instrumental in coordinating Monterey's launch of the SHLC and said, "I'm pleased that the Self-Help Law Center developed and utilized by Contra Costa is now a tool accessible to Monterey County residents, as I'm certain this resource will prove to be invaluable to those preparing to represent themselves in Court."

The SHLC is available on the Court's website in English and Spanish at:

<http://selfhelp.monterey.courts.ca.gov>

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*The mission of the Court is to dispense justice in all matters within
its jurisdiction in an impartial manner and in accordance with the law.*